



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

June 29, 2004

Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena MT. 59620
Dept. Of Health and Environmental Sciences, Directors Office
Dept. Of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Commission
Directors Office
Parks Division – Tom Reilly
Lands Section
Design & Construction
Legal Unit

Montana Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office P.O. Box 201202 Helena MT 59620-1202
Montana State Library P.O. Box 201800 Helena MT 59620-1800
Janet Ellis, MT Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
Montana Wildlife Federation P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
DNRC-Trust Lands Division, PO Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
Montana State Parks Association Inc. P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
Montana State Parks Foundation, P.O. Box 728 Libby, MT. 59923
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Cascade County Commissioners, County Courthouse, Great Falls, MT 59401
Heritage Park Commission, P.O. Box 1093, Great Falls MT 59403
L&C Interpretive Center P.O. Box 1806 Great Falls MT 59403-1806
City-County Planning Board Atten: Ben Rangel P.O. Box 5021 Great Falls MT 59401
Source Giant Springs P.O. Box 2996 Great Falls MT 59403-2996
Stewart Lewin, Missouri River Citizen's, 615 Third Ave North, Great Falls MT 59401
Don Henen Cascade Co Surveyor 415 Third St NW Great Falls MT 59404
Russell Country Sportsmen, PO Box 282, Great Falls MT 59403
Giant Springs State Park Planning Working Group

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Find attached the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Sulfur Springs Trailhead. One comment was received on this project with no modifications.

Thank you for your continued interest in Giant Springs State Park.

Sincerely,

Mike Aderhold
Regional Supervisor



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

**Decision Notice For Proposed
Sulfur Springs Trailhead Project
Region Four - FWP
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT. 59405**

Tuesday, June 29, 2004

Description of Proposed Action:

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks proposes to build a trailhead and ADA accessible trail near the Morony Apartment at the Morony town site.

This trailhead at Morony will serve as the primary access to the Sulfur Springs portion of the Lewis and Clark Portage National Historic Landmark. The Trailhead consists of a semi-circular parking lot, a CXT Gunnison model pit latrine with windscreen and a multi-use orientation/informational/interpretive kiosk. As part of the project an approximate 900 foot trail will be constructed to a scenic overlook. While this trail segment is not located on FWP property nor will construction use FWP funding the segment is included in this environmental analysis. The proposed trailhead would be located on land owned by PPL Montana and Montana FWP. The trailhead would occupy approximately ½ acre of land. Site dimensions are approximately 250 feet in length and 150 feet in width.

The benefits of this trailhead are to provide public access in an environmentally acceptable manner to the Sulfur Springs Trail. Interpretation of the historic and natural features is included in the Forest Service trail leading from the Trailhead to Sulfur Springs. Trail and trailhead development is consistent with anticipated use during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Providing a semi-hardened trailhead and trail will concentrate use on the developed trail and trailhead reducing use of the user-developed trails and parking areas that are scattered around the Morony area.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

Based on the analysis in the EA, I find the project as proposed to be the preferred alternative.

One comment was received in for this project generally supporting the project without modification, but expressing a desire for extra care in this historically sensitive area during the project's 30 day comment period therefore the draft EA will be accepted as the final EA.

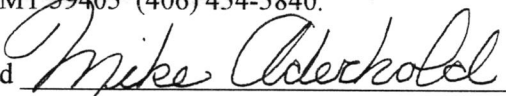
I have reviewed the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies and have determined that this

action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

This action is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director in writing, and postmarked within 30 days of the date on this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how appellant has previously commented to the Department or participated in the decision-making process, and lay out how FWP might address the concerns in the appeal.

The Final Environmental Assessment may be viewed, or obtained from The Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks, Region 4, Great Falls, MT. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, or the final EA please direct requests and questions to: Mike Aderhold 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls MT 59405 (406) 454-5840.

Signed


Mike Aderhold - Region Four Supervisor

Date

